

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

January 26, 2015

When is Enough, Enough? (Pt. 4 of 4)

HOSEA 11:7 NIV – (7) My people are bent on turning away from me, and though they call out to the Most High, he shall not raise them up at all.

Famine, pestilence, revolution, and war are judgments of the Ruler of the world. What sort of a ruler, we ask, is He? The answer to that question will determine the true sense of the term--the judgment of God. The heathen saw Him as a passionate, capricious, changeable Being who could be angered and appeased by men. The Jewish prophet saw Him as a God whose ways were equal - who was unchangeable, who was not to be bought off by sacrifices but pleased by righteous dealing, and who would remove the punishment when the causes which brought it on were taken away. In other words, when men repented, God would repent. That does not mean that God changed His laws to relieve men of their suffering, but that men changed their relationships to God's law, so that to them thus changed, God seemed to change.

A boat rows against the stream; the current punishes the boat. So is a nation violating the law of God. It is subject to punishment - judgment. The boat turns and goes with the stream; the current assists. So is a nation which has repented and puts itself into harmony with God's law; it is subject to a blessing. But the current is the same. It has not changed – only the boat has changed its relation to the current. Neither does God change -- we change. The same law which executed itself in punishment now expresses itself in reward.

There is a discrepancy between Christians and our Heavenly Father. We have determined how His grace and His mercy work. Thus, we have even determined in our own mind how His word is translated; and for many, His word is according to their beliefs. God says the heart is wicked (**Jeremiah 17:9**), but we say "*God knows my heart*" and, therefore, we say "*God will justify my behavior, my sin*", and we put His stamp of approval on it one more time! We believe we are right! That we are truly doing something to glorify God, but many deceive themselves and end up getting the ultimate surprise when they meet God one on one. Yes, we live under grace, but "**TAKE NOT**" God for granted!

SCRIPTURE READING

JEREMIAH 2:17

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

During Christmas, all we need is His presence.